IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A radio knife comprising:

an electrically insulative flexible sheath having a distal end portion and a proximal end portion, the distal end portion of the sheath having a distal opening and an axis;

~~an electrically insulative insulating tip~~ a support member which closes the distal opening of the sheath, the ~~insulating tip~~ support member having a slide hole with a diameter smaller than that of the distal opening extending along the axis thereof;

an operating wire axially movable in the sheath;

an electrode portion which has a distal end portion and a proximal end portion and of which at least a part forms a rod-shaped portion, the proximal end portion of the electrode portion being coupled to the operating wire, the rod-shaped portion being passed through the slide hole for axial projection and retraction;

a control section which is provided on the proximal end portion of the sheath and controls the operating wire to project and retract the electrode portion in the axial direction, the control section having a high-frequency current supply portion which supplies a high-frequency current to the electrode portion;

a liquid feed portion which is provided on the proximal end side of the sheath and feeds a liquid into the sheath; and

~~openings~~ an opening for liquid feed which [[are]] is formed in the ~~insulating tip~~ support member, the opening being arranged around and independently of the slide hole ~~and prevent the rod-shaped portion from inserting therein~~.

2-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A radio knife according to claim 1, wherein the sheath has an extending portion extending ahead of ~~the insulating tip~~ support member, the extending portion having an internal space which stores the electrode portion.

8. (Original) A radio knife according to claim 1, wherein the electrode portion has an extending portion located on the distal end portion of the rod-shaped portion and extending across the extending direction of the rod-shaped portion.

9. (Original) A radio knife according to claim 8, wherein the extending portion is a hooked bent portion extending substantially at right angles to the distal end portion of the rod-shaped portion.

10. (Original) A radio knife according to claim 8, wherein the extending portion is a platelike electrode portion coupled to the distal end portion of the rod-shaped portion.

11. (New) A radio knife according to claim 1, wherein the support member is an insulating tip.

12. (New) A radio knife comprising:

an electrically insulative flexible sheath having a distal end portion and a proximal end portion, the distal end portion of the sheath having a distal opening and an axis;

a support member which closes the distal opening of the sheath, the support member having a slide hole with a diameter smaller than that of the distal opening extending along the axis thereof;

an operating wire axially movable in the sheath;

an electrode portion which has a distal end portion and a proximal end portion and of which at least a part forms a rod-shaped portion, the proximal end portion of the electrode portion being coupled to the operating wire, the rod-shaped portion being passed through the slide hole for axial projection and retraction;

a control section which is provided on the proximal end portion of the sheath and controls the operating wire to project and retract the electrode portion in the axial direction, the control section having a high-frequency current supply portion which supplies a high-frequency current to the electrode portion;

a liquid feed portion which Is provided on the proximal end side of the sheath and feeds a liquid into the sheath; and

an opening for liquid feed which is formed in the support member, the opening for liquid feed within the sheath being configured to introduce the liquid from the proximal end side to the distal end side of the sheath in the axial direction thereof.

13. (New) A radio knife according to claim 12, wherein the support member is an insulating tip.